own method of procedure were he to devise and execute some plan by which man might know the mystery of his relation to God, and rise from his present degradation/'

Upon these two general facts, some general considerations may be founded, carrying a certain weight with them.

(1.) Mankind seem to be a race fallen, but not a race abandoned—a race which cannot rise of itself, but a race which seems to be kept with care, because it is yet to rise. When we see persons taking pains to deck a tomb, we are led to suppose that they expect the dead to rise again. The paintings, the ornaments, and devices on the sepulchres of ancient Egypt and Etruria, all seem to indicate that those bodies on which such delicate attention was lavished were expected to spring up in renewed life and vigour. Some of our readers may have been struck with the graphic description which a popular writer gives of the present condition of the Holy Land, appearing as if it were just waiting for the promised renovation.* " They shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations/' And seeming as if they were waiting the fulfilment of this prediction, there is a soil—gathering in depth and fertility; and in the east of the Jordan, there are numberless cities without inhabitants, (Buckingham saw from one rocky eminence upwards of twenty-five,) but with the houses yet standing—in some instances, so many as 800 deserted dwellings, all ready for the inhabitants who are yet to dwell in them. And does it not look as if, after the same way, there were among the ruins of our nature some materials which God is keeping with care, that he may rear a new fabric ? While, like the old men in Judah, we weep over the recollection of a glorious temple fallen, may we not with the younger men shout at the prospect

of a more glorious temple yet to be built ?

(2.) It does look as if our earth were waiting for something greater and better than has ever yet been realized. "*For* the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope; because the creature itself shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the

* Keith's Land of Israel, chap. viii.